

# Scaffolding Framework 2 (based on Socratic questions)

From Challenging Learning by James Nottingham

[www.challenginglearning.com](http://www.challenginglearning.com)

## Clarification

Basic 'tell me more' questions that invite pupils to 'go deeper'.

- Why are you saying that?
- What exactly does this mean?
- How does this relate to what we have been talking about?
- What do we already know about this?
- Can you give me an example?
- Are you saying ... or ... ?
- Can you rephrase that, please?

## Reasons

Checking that reasons given by pupils actually do support the conclusions they are drawing.

- Can you give me an example of that?
- Are these reasons good enough?
- How might it be refuted?
- How can I be sure of what you are saying?
- Why is ... happening?
- What evidence is there to support what you are saying?
- On what authority are you basing your argument?

## Assumptions

Asking pupils to think about the presuppositions and unquestioned beliefs upon which they are founding their arguments.

- What are you taking for granted?
- Are you assuming that ... ?
- Please explain why/how ... ?
- How can you verify or disprove that assumption?
- What would happen if ... ?
- Do you agree or disagree with ... ?
- Aren't you thinking that ...?

## Viewpoints

Most arguments are given from particular viewpoints. Seek alternatives from your pupils.

- What alternative ways of looking at this are there?
- Why is ... necessary?
- Who benefits from this?
- Why is it better than ...?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of...?
- How are ... and ... similar?
- How could you look another way at this?

## Effects

Arguments and ideas may have logical implications and consequences that can be forecast. These questions invite pupils to consider the possible effects or consequences of ideas or actions.

- What would happen then?
- Doesn't it follow that ...?
- What are the consequences of that assumption?
- How does ... affect ... ?
- How does ... fit with what we learned before?
- Are you suggesting that ... ?
- What is the best ... ? Why?

## Questions

Questions about questions (meta-cognition). These questions are designed to ask the pupils to reflect on the relative merits of their questions.

- How effective was your question?
- Which of your questions turned out to be the most useful?
- What was the point of asking that question?
- Why do you think I asked this question?
- What does that mean?
- Can you improve any of your/my questions?
- What would you do to improve your questions in future?